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Mid-February Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of February showed increases for all barley, feed barley, malting barley, potatoes, all wheat, dry beans and beef cattle. Prices decreased for alfalfa hay, cows, steers and heifers. Prices remained unchanged for calves and all milk.

The preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February was 113, using a 1990-92=100 is 2 points (1.8) percent above the January Index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Feb. 2003-Feb. 2004

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		February 2003	January 2004	February 2004 ^{1/}	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	86.00	84.00	96.20	83.60	84.70	--
Barley, All	Bu	3.15	2.95	3.05	2.87	2.71	2.62	40
Feed	Bu	2.36	2.42	2.45	2.20	2.15	2.13	--
Malting	Bu	3.17	3.26	3.30	3.06	2.97	2.88	--
Dry Beans	Cwt	18.80	17.60	18.50	19.20	17.00	19.60	39
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt	4.60	4.05	4.15	6.33	5.75	5.62	38
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	4.60	3.70	--	8.18	6.20	--	--
Processing	Cwt	4.60	4.30	--	5.32	5.36	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu	3.52	3.45	3.50	3.70	3.68	3.68	38
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt	69.80	70.90	71.30	73.90	80.90	77.80	47
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt	38.90	41.90	40.30	38.90	46.10	46.20	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	78.50	81.60	80.10	78.20	85.40	81.60	--
Calves	Cwt	94.00	105.00	105.00	97.20	110.00	110.00	50
Lambs	Cwt	88.00	91.00	--	92.40	104.00	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt	10.30	12.10	12.10	11.40	13.20	7/13.30	8/41
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt	10.30	12.10	--	11.40	13.20	7/13.30	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt	10.30	12.70	--	10.30	12.30	7/12.60	--

^{1/} Mid-Month. ^{2/} Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. ^{3/} Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. ^{4/} "Cows" and "steers & heifers" combined. ^{5/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. ^{6/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. ^{7/} Fat test percent: all milk 3.75, fluid milk 3.75, mfg. grade 3.89. ^{8/} Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. ^{9/} Including milk diverted to manufacturing.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	January 2003	February 2003	January 2004		February 2004 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	100	99	111	111	113
Prices Paid	126	128	130	130	130
Ratio ^{1/}	79	77	85	85	87

^{1/} Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Idaho Sheep Inventory Unchanged

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 2004, totaled 260,000 head, unchanged from last year. The January 1, 2004 inventory equals the last two years as the lowest inventory since records began in 1920. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2004 totaled 225,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 184,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004 totaled 35,000. The 2003 lamb crop of 240,000 head was unchanged from 2002.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding

sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004 totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65-84 pounds, 23 percent were 85-105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Sheep and Lambs: Inventory by Class, January 1, 2003-2004

State	Total Sheep		Market Sheep and Lambs		Breeding Sheep and Lambs						Lamb Crop 1/	
					Total		Ewes 1+		Replacement Lambs			
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2002	2003
	1,000 Head											
Arizona	115.0	114.0	58.0	57.0	57.0	57.0	49.0	48.0	5.0	6.0	34.0	34.0
California	730.0	680.0	380.0	355.0	350.0	325.0	290.0	275.0	50.0	40.0	280.0	260.0
Colorado	380.0	360.0	195.0	190.0	185.0	170.0	155.0	139.0	24.0	26.0	200.0	180.0
IDAHO	260.0	260.0	35.0	35.0	225.0	225.0	184.0	184.0	36.0	36.0	240.0	240.0
Montana	310.0	300.0	30.0	20.0	280.0	280.0	220.0	220.0	52.0	53.0	295.0	280.0
Nevada	80.0	75.0	10.0	11.0	70.0	64.0	55.0	52.0	13.0	10.0	62.0	60.0
New Mexico	175.0	160.0	35.0	27.0	140.0	133.0	115.0	108.0	18.0	18.0	100.0	99.0
Oregon	235.0	215.0	78.0	70.0	157.0	145.0	125.0	112.0	25.0	26.0	150.0	140.0
Texas	1,040.0	1,100.0	220.0	260.0	820.0	840.0	660.0	675.0	120.0	120.0	540.0	520.0
Utah	310.0	265.0	30.0	30.0	280.0	235.0	240.0	195.0	31.0	33.0	275.0	240.0
Washington	55.0	46.0	9.0	6.0	46.0	40.0	37.0	32.0	7.0	6.0	59.0	55.0
Wyoming	460.0	430.0	100.0	90.0	360.0	340.0	295.0	270.0	55.0	61.0	340.0	310.0
U.S.	6,300.0	6,090.0	1,642.0	1,610.0	4,658.0	4,480.0	3,770.0	3,601.0	695.0	690.5	4,357.0	4,120.0

1/Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Eastern states and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

Frozen Potato Stocks

Frozen stocks of french fries in the United States on January 31, 2004, totaled 897 million pounds, up 3 percent from December 31, 2003, but down 2 percent from January 31, 2003. Other frozen potatoes, at 259 million pounds, increased 3 percent from December 31, 2003 stocks and increased 1 percent from January 31, 2003.

United States stocks of butter on January 31, 2004, totaled 145 million pounds, up 45 percent from December 31, 2003, but down 29 percent from January 31, 2003. Of this 145 million pounds, the government owned 4.16 million pounds. Stocks of total American cheese totaled 511 million pounds, up 4 percent from December 31, 2003, but down 1 percent from January 31, 2003. The government owned 2.38 million pounds of the American cheese stocks.

Commodity	Jan 31, 2003	Dec 31, 2003	Jan 31, 2004	2004 2003
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>
POTATOES:				
French Fries	917,160	869,521	897,142	98
Other Frozen	255,893	250,897	259,424	101
TOTAL	1,173,053	1,120,418	1,156,566	99
DAIRY:				
Butter	204,828	99,613	144,616	71
(Gov't Owned)	349	6,172	4,161	1,192
Natural Cheese				
American, Total	514,914	491,419	510,741	99
(Gov't Owned)	280	9,614	2,377	849

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.24 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 38,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.24 million, in 2003. This compares with losses totaling 38,000 head with a value of \$3.55 million in 2002.

Predator losses at 37.1 percent, accounted for 14,100 losses worth a value of \$1.57 million. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 10,500 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$1.17 million. Dogs claimed 1,100 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$123,000; bears caused 700 deaths valued at \$78,000; cougars killed 600 head and fox killed 100 head, valued at \$67,000 and \$11,000 respectively. Losses from other and

unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 1,100 head of sheep and lambs.

Non predator losses, accounted for 23,900 losses worth a value of \$2.67 million. Lambing complications claimed 7,600 sheep and lambs in 2003 valued at \$847,000. Disease claimed 4,500; weather killed 2,300 head; old age killed 1,800 and poison killed 900 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 3,100 sheep and lamb deaths during 2003.

All Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho, 2001-2003^{1/}

Cause of Loss	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Value ^{3/ 4/ 5/}		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>								
Coyote	8,800	7,100	10,500	21.0	18.7	27.6	858	664	1,171
Dog	700	300	1,100	1.7	0.8	2.9	68	28	123
Bear	700	700	700	1.7	1.8	1.8	68	65	78
Cougar	300	300	600	0.7	0.8	1.6	29	28	67
Fox	200	100	100	0.5	0.3	0.3	20	9	11
Other Animals ^{6/}	800	400	1,000	1.9	1.1	2.6	78	37	112
Unknown Predators	500	300	100	1.2	0.8	0.3	49	28	11
Total Predators	12,000	9,200	14,100	28.6	24.2	37.1	1,170	859	1,573
Weather Conditions	3,700	4,600	2,300	8.8	12.1	6.1	361	430	256
Disease	6,600	9,800	4,500	15.7	25.8	11.8	644	916	502
Poison	1,400	1,400	900	3.3	3.7	2.4	137	131	100
Lambing Complications	8,300	5,900	7,600	19.8	15.5	20.0	809	552	847
Old Age	1,800	1,500	1,800	4.3	3.9	4.7	176	140	201
Theft	200	300	400	0.5	0.8	1.1	20	28	45
On Back	200	300	200	0.5	0.8	0.5	20	28	22
Other Causes ^{7/}	2,500	2,200	3,100	6.0	5.8	8.2	244	206	346
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	5,300	2,800	3,100	12.6	7.4	8.2	517	262	346
TOTAL	42,000	38,000	38,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,098	3,552	4,238

Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho 2001-2003

Cause of Loss	Sheep						All Lambs ^{1/}					
	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Coyote	1,500	900	2,300	15.0	9.0	23.0	7,300	6,200	8,200	22.8	22.1	29.3
Dog	200	100	700	2.0	1.0	7.0	500	200	400	1.6	0.7	1.4
Bear	300	300	300	3.0	3.0	3.0	400	400	400	1.3	1.4	1.4
Cougar	100	100	200	1.0	1.0	2.0	200	200	400	0.6	0.7	1.4
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200	100	100	0.6	0.4	0.4
Other Animals ^{6/}	100	0	100	1.0	0.0	1.0	700	400	900	2.2	1.4	3.2
Unknown Predators	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	400	200	100	1.3	0.7	0.4
Total Predators	2,300	1,500	3,600	23.0	15.0	36.0	9,700	7,700	10,500	30.4	27.5	37.5
Weather Conditions	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	3,500	4,500	2,200	10.9	16.1	7.9
Disease	1,700	3,400	1,400	17.0	34.0	14.0	4,900	6,400	3,100	15.3	22.9	11.1
Poison	500	700	500	5.0	7.0	5.0	900	700	400	2.8	2.5	1.4
Lambing Complications	1,800	1,500	1,400	18.0	15.0	14.0	6,500	4,400	6,200	20.3	15.7	22.1
Old Age	1,800	1,500	1,800	18.0	15.0	18.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Theft	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	100	200	400	0.3	0.7	1.4
On Back	200	300	200	2.0	3.0	2.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Causes ^{7/}	300	400	500	3.0	4.0	5.0	2,200	1,800	2,600	6.9	6.4	9.3
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	1,100	500	500	11.0	5.0	5.0	4,200	2,300	2,600	13.1	8.2	9.3
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	32,000	28,000	28,000	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 20,000 in 2001, 15,000 in 2002, and 16,000 in 2003. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2001 - \$97.50, 2002 - \$93.50, and 2003 - \$111.50. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ Includes bobcats, eagles, wolves 7/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 8/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss

Idaho Wool Production

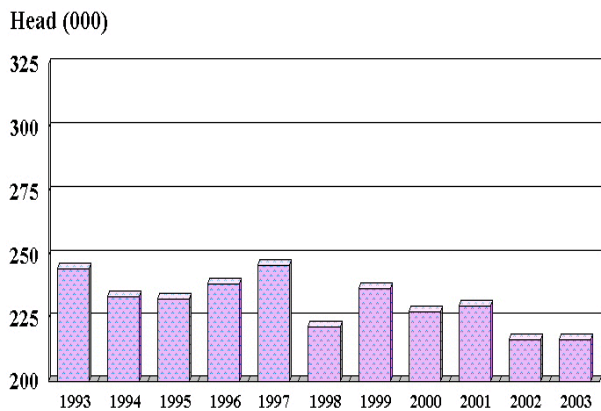
Idaho wool production in 2003 totaled 2.12 million pounds, unchanged from last year. The number of sheep shorn, at 217,000 head, is also unchanged from a year ago. The average weight per fleece in 2003 remains unchanged from 2002 at 9.7 pounds.

The total value of 2003 Idaho wool production was 1.82 million dollars, compared to 1.42 million dollars in 2002. The average price received per pound was 86 cents, up 19 cents per pound from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002.

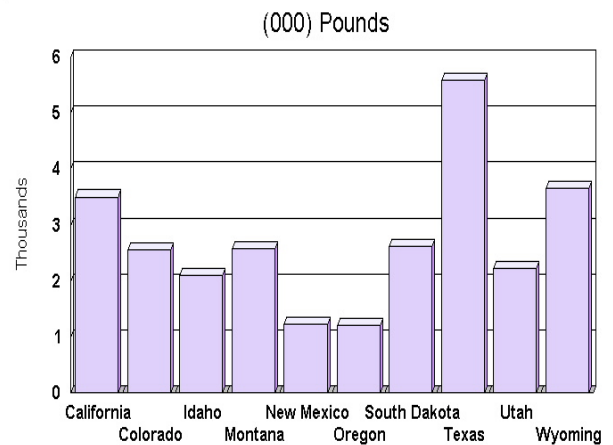
The national average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was 72 cents per pound for a total value of 27.4 million dollars, compared to 53 cents per pound for a total value of 21.9 million dollars in 2002.

SHEEP SHORN IDAHO 1993-2003



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WOOL PRODUCTION SELECTED STATES 2003



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